

August 2016



## Boy reunites with police rescuers

The owner of an empty building at 23<sup>rd</sup> and Prospect stopped by to check on it in October 2010 when he spotted a broken window and went to investigate. He looked inside and saw what he thought was a dead baby boy wrapped in a sheet, lying on the floor of the abandoned building. He immediately backed away and called 911.

Then-East Patrol Officers Sean Clarke and Richard Salzman responded.

"We were expecting the worst," said Clarke, now a detective in the Sex Crimes Unit.

The officers said they'll never forget what they encountered: A small child with a horrible skin condition wearing a saturated diaper. Beside him were an empty bag of Funyuns and an empty water bottle. The child was, in fact, 3 years old, but very small due to malnourishment. He was dehydrated, covered in open sores, but still alive. As the officers loaded him into an ambulance, a woman showed up.

"She said it was her child because she recognized his cry," said Officer Salzman, who now is assigned to the Westside Community Action Network Center.

She'd left the boy in the abandoned building at least overnight while she worked as a prostitute on Prospect Avenue. The officers arrested her for neglect. The boy was loaded into the ambulance and transported to Children's Mercy.

He spent three weeks there getting treatment for a severe bacterial skin infection. He was then placed in the care of foster parents John and Janet Richardson of Independence, Mo. Janet Richardson said she had no intention of adopting him – just caring for him until he was better and could get a permanent placement. But that didn't happen.



Six years ago, Officers Sean Clarke (left) and Richard Salzman (right) found Josiah Richardson (center) abandoned and sick in a vacant building. With his adoptive family, 9-year-old Josiah met up again with Clarke and Salzman to say thank you.

"He instantly knew we were going to take care of him," Janet said. "He fell right into our family."

Older sister Haley, now 17 and also adopted, says she prayed for a little brother. She and the boy, now 9 years old and named Josiah Richardson, believe that's how he ended up a permanent member of the Richardson family.

It was tough at first. Janet and John had to cover Josiah in medicated lotions and oils multiple times a day to fight the skin infection. He couldn't sleep comfortably for two entire years. Janet caught the skin infection from him, but she now says it wasn't a big deal.

Rocking the uncomfortable little boy back to sleep was worth it.

Janet and John have three biological children and four adopted children, ranging in age from 9 to 42. They said they want all their adopted children to know their history. They even obtained a copy of KCPD's file on Josiah's neglect case. They've told Josiah a lot about what he went through, leaving out some of the more unsavory details until he gets older.

When they first told him what happened, he said, "I want to meet my policemen who rescued me."

So they invited Officers Clarke and Salzman to Josiah's formal adoption hearing on February 17, 2012. Both officers agreed it was one of the best things ever to happen in their careers. (Clarke has been at KCPD for 11 years, Salzman for 13.)

"It was the best success story we've come across," Officer Salzman said.

Detective Clarke says that in

*Continued on p. 2*

**Pg. 2** Mexican Consulate - Officer Alex Cruz Rescued Boy cont.

**Pg. 3** News In Brief

**Pg. 4** Officially Speaking Upcoming Events KCPD Now On Instagram

# Officer named Mexican Consulate liaison

Officer Alex Cruz, East Patrol Division, was recently appointed department liaison between the KCPD and the local Mexican Consulate, Consulado de Mexico, 1617 Baltimore Avenue.

"I hope to help foster a more trusting relationship between the police department and the Spanish-speaking community here, which should make information sharing better, helping to solve crimes in the community," Cruz said.

Chief Darryl Forté requested this partnership about a month ago after meeting with Consulate staff. They provided him with astounding statistics tallying the number of daily visitors.

"I felt we were missing a lot of opportunities to interact with people," Forté said.

Forté's goal is eventually to assign a full-time officer; encouraging police interaction with Mexican nationals in what they consider a comfortable and safe environment, while serving as a resource.

Desirée Colomé of the Mexican Consulate feels Officer Cruz is a great step toward strengthening the collaboration between police and the Consu-



late. He also will be valuable when the Consulate provides assistance to Mexican nationals here when they are crime victims, facing a judicial process of any nature, or affected by natural disasters or accidents. Colomé welcomes Cruz to speak to the Mexican community at the Consulate to share information, resources and explain how to approach law enforcement when needed.

She appreciates Chief Forté's disposition and supports this initiative; acknowledging it will be a two-way avenue. The Consulate will assist the department's community outreach activities and provide input to better address the needs of the Mexican population of this city.

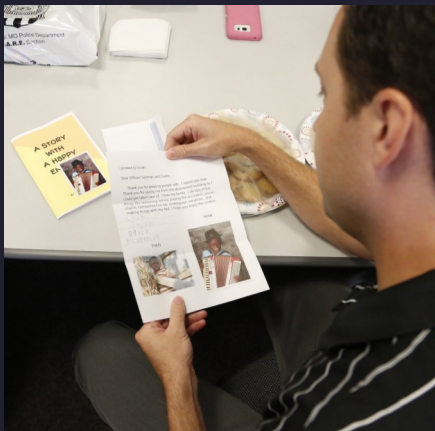
Colomé is confident this partnership will render huge benefits, stating, "We want law enforcement agencies to see the Consulate of Mexico as a valued ally in their daily activities, when overcoming the challenges they face in terms of approaching the Spanish-speaking community and in any other capacity we could be of any help."

Forté said, "Both the Mexican nationals and the police must increase understanding of customs and practices of each other in order to create safer communities." Bien dicho.

**"I hope to help foster a more trusting relationship between the police department and the Spanish-speaking community here, which should make information sharing better, helping to solve crimes in the community."**

## Boy with tough start in life thanks police

*Continued from p. 1*



patrol, he often wondered what became of people he contacted. When Josiah asked to meet up with the officers again on August 16 (he wants to make it an annual event, which the officers are only too happy to oblige), Detective Clarke finally looked back at the case file to see Josiah's biological mother had been formally charged on numerous counts of neglect. He was heartened to see justice was served.

Officer Salzman said despite all the awful things police encounter, they don't get desensitized to a case like Josiah's.

"You never get used to anything involving a child," he said. "It's the very worst."

That is why it was so gratifying for them to see Josiah again, at his request. He is 9 years old and starting the fourth grade in home school. He plays a mean accordion and still enjoys the remote-controlled police car the officers gave him for his adoption ceremony more than four years ago.

Janet Richardson said she wanted to let the officers know how grateful the family was to them for rescuing her son.

"I just felt like it would be nice for them to see a story with a happy ending," she said. "... We plan to invite them to his high school graduation."



## KC Cowboys for Cops Pony up Support for LE



**O**n Friday, August 5, the Kansas City Police Mounted Patrol, along with the Jackson County Sheriff's Mounted Posse, saddled up and led over 200 equines and their riders from Hale Arena on the City's Westside to the Liberty Memorial Mall. While gathered on the terrace between Liberty Memorial and Union Station, several speakers, including Sergeant Joey Roberts of the KCMP, thanked attendees for their show of support and recognized fallen officers and their families. KC Cowboys for Cops organized the event to honor KCPD, support law enforcement and collect donations for funds for first responders. Traffic officers on two and four wheels escorted the group along the 4.3-mile trail, ensuring a safe journey. The route was sprinkled with curious local residents and area workers, some with signs showing their support.

## NPD Celebrates Topping Out



**T**he new North Patrol Division, 11000 NW Prairie View Rd., had a Topping Out event Aug. 12. This marks the half-way point on the building's construction.

## PAL Ice Cream Giveaway

**F**ree ice cream, donated by the Police Athletic League Board, was distributed to neighborhood children to help promote PAL's August 9 Back-to-School event. Officer Titus Golden was on hand to help the ice cream vendor, a partner of PAL, pass out the treats and fliers promoting the next day's event. A PAL officer followed the truck driving a police vehicle to help promote police in the community. The cold treats were a hit with both the kids and parents.



## Community Picnic at EPD



**E**ast Patrol Division members joined with a group of community activists, Peace and Love Under God (PLUG), to host a free picnic for the community on Saturday, August 13. Leading up to the picnic, PLUG held daily demonstrations outside East Patrol at 27th and Prospect for 30 days to promote unity and peace among police and other community members. Local businesses and individuals donated everything from pizza to radio promotions for the event. Many people living in and around East Patrol got to know the officers who serve their area.

## Upcoming Events

September 13  
Board of Police  
Commissioners Meeting

September 25  
Broadway Bridge Run

September 27  
25-Year Ring Ceremony

The mission of the  
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is to protect and serve  
with professionalism,  
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publication of KCPD's  
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## Officially Speaking

### Awards

#### *Special Unit Citation*

East Property Crimes Section  
North Property Crimes Section  
South Property Crimes Section

#### *Life-Saving Award*

Sergeant Caleb Lenz  
Sergeant Dennis Wycoff  
Officer Shawn Davis  
Officer Gary Knapp  
Officer Christopher Lear (2)  
Officer Kelly Stamm

#### *Meritorious Service Award*

Captain Chip Huth  
Officer Richard Jones  
Officer Michael Mezzacasa  
Analyst Deborah Hagen

#### *Certificate of Commendation*

Sergeant Corey Carlisle  
Officer Joshua Gantt  
Officer Benjamin Haskett  
Officer Aaron Smith  
Crime Scene Technician Stacie Frobenius  
Crime Scene Technician Benjamin Simmons  
Forensic Specialist Lavonda Jackson

### Obituaries

Retired Sergeant John Parkinson  
Retired Officer Donald Winfrey  
Retired Civilian William Scheibel

**KCPD now on Instagram**



**@kcmopolice**